

December 20, 2006

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To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in regards to the occurrences of the national suicide prevention hotline network known as the Kristin Brookes Hope Center. In my opinion I view the actions of SAMHSA to permanently remove the national hotline numbers from the Hopeline Network as unjust. KBHC, was the first network to address the issue that for too long has plagued our society and they have continued to work for the betterment of those who believe this world would be better without them. At KBHC, they have given everything to create awareness and outreach to not only Americans, but those who reside in our neighboring countries of Canada and Mexico.

I am in full agreement of a shared hotline and do not believe SAMHSA, has respected the hard work and dedication set forth by those at KBHC. I have worked with suicide prevention for almost four and a half years and have always found KBHC to be the number one resource used in saving lives and connecting young people who suffer from suicidal ideation. These actions are also unfair in that Mr. Reese Butler, founder of KBHC has given so much and started the program in good faith after the loss of his wife to suicide. It is sickening to see that suicide prevention is turning into a corporate system. This is not in the best interest of the public and is not the proper way to address a growing epidemic in our society, especially amongst youth where the fast age group for suicide is the 10-14 year olds.

I beg that the FCC, really look into the matter at hand and not allow for SAMHSA to permanently gain control of the national hotline numbers. My experience with them in the past has been a negative one, in that when I first began working in suicide prevention I tried to contact all the resources to better educate me and connect with. I made several attempts to contact SAMSHA and to no avail only received e-mail updates on what they were doing, while with KBHC I actually received a phone call asking in what way I would like to assist and they even went further to invite me to Washington, DC to speak on behalf of , *The Mental Health Parity Act*. Talk about service!

I was so impressed with this that I have made a commitment to stand behind this non-profit agency and support all their efforts.

Suicide, is a very serious subject and by continuing to play a game of back and forth with we risk losing precious lives every day. It is not a form of "profit gain" and those who suffer from this illness, should never be put under the microscope and have their information open for review. As any patient in a doctor's office they have the right to privacy and it is absurd to not continue to respect the rights of those who suffer from the illness of depression. This is flat out wrong in every which way and dangerous in addressing the problem. What person will want to come forth when in time of crisis knowing they are being watched by the Federal Government? Just the same as what individual would want to go to his/her doctors office knowing that they may be viewed as a threat to society or even terrorism? If this happened I could guarantee one would never have to wait in line for a check up, because no one would have faith in the system any more. It is a right that should be seriously considered and in my point of view those at KBHC are professional, compassionate and educated and there is no reason what so ever for their network to be taken over permanently.

The only fault of KBHC, is that they are not allowing themselves to be bullied and give in because they believe in suicide prevention and saving lives. While other agencies now see suicide prevention as a way to gain monetary profit, KBHC sees suicide prevention as a way to save lives so that individuals can know their worth, purpose and go on to live life. By allowing the KBHC network to be stripped from their hands, you strip them of their hearts. I thank you for your time and attention regarding this matter. Should you feel the need to contact me, please do so by calling (505) 699-9330.

Respectfully Yours,

Ane C. Romero  
New Mexico 2005